



Alumni Newsletter

Fall 2007



**Department of
Communication
Sciences and
Disorders
Syracuse University**

Special Interest Articles:

- Student Media Lab.
- Gebbie News
- Presentations at ASHA
- Faculty/Student Presentations
- Alumni Updates

Alumni Open House

**Friday,
November 16,
2007**

**Boston Marriott
Copley Place
3rd Floor Atrium**

7:30-9:30 pm

Dear Alums,

I begin with thanks to all of you for being “the public face” of our department in our professions. Your successes with clients, with research, with teaching, and with mentoring others provide us with great satisfaction and a sense of legacy. Below are a few highlights, to be followed in the rest of this letter by news from faculty, staff, and from your fellow alumni.

We welcome Ms. **Jennifer Steigerwald** to our department as our new administrative assistant. Ms. Steigerwald has had much experience with the issues of educational administration in her role as a member of the school board for the East Syracuse-Minoa School District, and she brings a great “can-do” attitude to her support staff leadership. Ms. **Pat Howe**, our clinic receptionist, also has been a very welcome addition to our support staff team. Pat is known for her warm and caring greeting of clients and their families. Pat has worked in other departments within the university for the past 5 years, so we also benefit from her “insider” knowledge.

We would like to create a list of alumni experts and potential speakers. Part of our educational mission is to learn from you as you have expanded upon the training you received here. Are you engaged in a new initiative at your place of employment? Has your work had an effect on or engaged the wider community in which you practice? Have you been using an evidence-based approach to evaluation or treatment that you have found to be effective? Would you be interested in sharing your research findings or teaching innovations? Please let us know (milosky@syrr.edu) if you would be interested in speaking to our current students and faculty, or sharing such successes in future newsletters/website postings. If you can provide externship or observation opportunities for our students, we also would like to hear from you.

Many of you have contributed time, talent, and money to our department, and we are grateful for your support. Your supervision of our students, your guest lectures, and your monetary contributions help us enrich student learning experiences. If you wish to contribute money to the CSD Gift Fund or to any of our scholarship funds (see last page), please write your check to Syracuse University, put Communication Sciences and Disorders in the memo line (along with the name of the specific scholarship fund if you wish to contribute to), and mail it to Syracuse University, Arts & Sciences Office of Advancement, 307 Hall of Languages, Syracuse, NY 13244, Attention: Lynda Weaver. Please also let us know that you have sent it (csd@syrr.edu). Again, thank you on behalf of students, faculty and staff.

I look forward to a great year for us and for you too. We really enjoy hearing from you. Keep those cards and letters (correction: emails) coming.

Best,

Linda M. Milosky, Ph.D.
Chair and Associate Professor

After 5 years as chair of our department, **Dr. Raymond Colton** retired in June and was granted the title of Professor Emeritus by Syracuse University. Dr. Colton became chair of our department in 2002, just after we moved to the College of Arts and Sciences. He very capably helped us adapt to many exciting changes of becoming a department (rather than a program) in the College. We are very grateful for his leadership during this time, for his teaching contributions over many years as an adjunct professor, and as committee member on many students' theses and dissertations. Dr. Colton will continue to conduct his research on vocal fold physiology, but he also plans to further research the anatomy of golf swings and moguls on the ski slopes and the vocal interactions of his grandchildren. We wish him the best, and we look forward to many years of continued connection with him.

News From the Gebbie Clinics

This year marks the 35th anniversary of the Gebbie Clinics. We continue to be known throughout the CNY community as an exceptional resource for individuals with communication disorders. Our client base has expanded significantly, including individuals with aphasia, apraxia (both developmental and acquired) multiple sclerosis, hearing loss, phonology and articulation disorders, autism, fluency and voice disorders, Asperger's syndrome, language disorders and learning disabilities, auditory processing disorders, genetic disorders, TBI, and cognitive disabilities. Hearing aid services continue to be a strong part of our clinical learning experiences. We also have increased our services for individuals learning English as a second language as Syracuse's wider community has become more linguistically diversified.

This year, we also celebrated the 10th anniversary of Anita Lightburn's employment as a supervisor in the Gebbie Speech-Language Clinic. Anita's devotion to students and their clinical growth, as well as her excellent diagnostic and therapeutic skills, have made her an outstanding supervisor. Anita has played a key role in the expansion of our ESL services. We are so pleased that we continue to be enriched by her contributions.

Two new babies in the
CSD Department!
Dr. Annette Jenner and
her husband, Rick
Matthews, are proud
parents of Arianna
Elizabeth, born March 1,
2007.

Speech supervisor,
Danielle Rinaldi Roddy,
and her husband, Sean,
welcomed their first baby,
Mia Georgia on June 4,
2007.
Congratulations!

Ramani Voleti, M.S., CCC-SLP, our clinic supervisor who works with adults with neurogenic & motor speech disorders has recently been certified (August 2007) in Lee Silverman Voice Treatment (LSVT). LSVT is a Level 1 evidence-based intensive voice treatment for people with Parkinson's disease. Level 1 is evidence from well-designed randomized controlled clinical trials. Recent research also indicates it can be applied to other neurogenic populations, such as people with multiple sclerosis and ataxic dysarthria. We are pleased to say that Ramani, and her student clinicians, have already begun treating clients using this technique in the clinic!



The Gebbie Clinic is now offering more assistive hearing devices to meet the needs of our clients. Due to the fact that many listening environments still challenge hearing aid users, we now have FM systems, telephone amplifiers, sonic boom alarm clocks and a television loop system on display in the clinic.

Undergraduate Clinic Mentoring Program

As we go to press, we have just learned that a program proposed by our NSSLHA students has been funded. The Undergraduate Clinic Mentoring program will allow undergraduates to be paired with graduate student clinicians to assist those clinicians in provision of services to our clients. The graduate clinicians will review video recordings of the session (using two new digital video cameras) with the undergraduates to provide feedback and elaborate on the clinical process. This program is intended to expand the clinical experiences of undergraduates as they make their career choices.

Grants

Karen A. Doherty - Gerontology Center Summer Seed Grant, Syracuse University, "The Effect of Age on How Listeners Process Speech" (2007).

Annette R. Jenner --National Institutes of Health: NICHD RO3 HD045565- Neurobiology of Spelling in Skilled and Disabled Readers (2006, ongoing)

Beth A. Prieve --March of Dimes Foundation three year grant "Improving Diagnostic Audiology in Infants and Young Children." (2006-ongoing)

Awards

Debra Burnett, 2007 Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, Syracuse University

Lauren Calandruccio, Doctoral Prize, Excellence in Research at the Graduate Level, College of Arts and Sciences, Syracuse University (2007).

Lauren Calandruccio, Mentored Doctoral Student Research Poster Session Grant, co-sponsored by the American Auditory Society and NIH (2007).

Lauren Calandruccio, New Century Scholars Doctoral Scholarship Recipient, ASHFoundation (2006)

Jamie DesJardins, 2007 Graduate Student Paper Award, Gerontology Center, Syracuse University

Karen A. Doherty, Excellence in Graduate Education Faculty Recognition Award (2007).

Tammy Kordas was elected to represent staff members with teaching responsibilities to be a voting member of the College of Arts & Sciences Faculty.

Alumni Open House in Boston

The CS & D department will be hosting a reception for all alumni, friends, and prospective students on Friday, **November 16, 2007** from 7:30-9:30 pm. It will be held at the Boston Marriott Copley Place. Stop by the Atrium on the third floor. We look forward to seeing you!

CSD at the 2007 ASHA Convention Grad School Fair

The department will take part in the annual Graduate School Fair at the ASHA Convention in Boston Thursday and Friday from 12:00-4:00 pm.

On Thursday, Dr. Joe Pellegrino and Dr. Karen Doherty will be at our booth to discuss our AuD and PhD programs with interested candidates. On

Friday, Dr. Linda Milosky, Dr. Mary Louise Edwards, and Dr. Annette Jenner will discuss our master's program in Speech-Language Pathology with prospective students.

Student Media and Computer Labs

Over the past two years, the Speech Science Lab (220 Hoople) has undergone a transformation from a somewhat cave-like room to an attractive and functional facility for students viewing/transcribing video or audio media. Several pieces of equipment have been purchased with money from the CS&D Gift Fund, and the new equipment has been configured so that small groups of students can work collaboratively on projects. The Student Media Lab will be used heavily by both undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in five different courses.

Money from the CS&D Gift Fund has also been used to purchase two new computers for the student room in the Gebbie Clinic. That room now holds six computers devoted to student use. These additional computers allow for compliance with HIPAA regulations, which make it necessary for reports to be prepared within the confines of the clinic.

These improvements, though modest, are invaluable to the students, and they help us to continue to offer the high quality academic and clinical education. Many thanks to all of you who have contributed to the CS&D Gift Fund through the years! We appreciate your continuing support.

Faculty/Student Presentations at ASHA 2007

Thursday, November 15

Amy Sled and Karen Doherty "Presentation Level Effects on Listeners' Weighting Strategies for Speech" Session# 1196, 10-11:30 am, Poster #234, CC/Hall B2

Jonathan Preston and Mary Louise Edwards "Phonological Output of Adolescents on Three Repetition Tasks" Session# 1183, 10:30-10:45 am, CC/103

Karen Doherty and Jamie DesJardins "Relationship Between Practical & Self Reported Hearing Aid Knowledge" Session# 0109, 1-1:15 pm, CC/109B

Saturday, November 17

Linda Milosky, Debra Burnett and Cheryl Ruspantini "Prosodic Marking of Situationally Specific Versus Conventional Ironic Utterances" Session# 1930, 3-4:30 pm, Poster# 213, CC/Hall B2

Other Faculty/Student Presentations in 2007

Burnett, D., Milosky, L. & Gardner, K. (2007) Mental state language and idiom comprehension in children with and without language impairment. Symposium for Research on Child Language Disorders, Madison, WI.

Calandruccio, L., & Doherty, K.A. (2007). Effect of overall level on spectral weighting strategies for speech. American Auditory Society Meeting, Scottsdale, AZ.

Doherty, K.A., & DesJardins, J. (2007). A novel test for assessment of practical hearing aid skills. American Auditory Society Meeting, Scottsdale, AZ.

Edwards, M.L. & Preston, J.L. (2007). Phonological disorders, phonological awareness, and literacy: An update for SLPs. New York State Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Convention, Buffalo, NY.

Edwards, M.L. & Preston, J.L. (2007). Phonological processing abilities of children with speech sound disorders. Presented at the Linguistics Studies Colloquium, Syracuse, NY.

Prieve, B.A. (2007). Update on otoacoustic emissions: 29 years after Kemp's first report. Invited presentation at the New York State Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Buffalo.

Prieve, B., Vander Werff, K.R., & Georgantas, L. (2007). Test battery results for prediction of hearing loss in infants. American Auditory Society Meeting, Scottsdale, AZ.

Vander Werff, K.R. (2007). ASSR analysis methods and the effect on clinical results. Paper presented at the American Academy of Audiology Convention, Denver, CO.

Publications

Calandruccio, L., & Doherty, K.A. (2007). Spectral weighting functions for sentences measured by a correlational method. *Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*, 121, 3827- 3836.

Calandruccio, L., Doherty, K.A., Carney, L.H., & Kikkeri, H. (2007). Perception of temporally processed speech by hearing-impaired listeners. *Ear and Hearing*, 28 (4), 512-523.

Ford, J. and Milosky, L. (in press). Inference generation during discourse and its relation to social competence: An on-line investigation of abilities of children with and without language impairment. *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research*.

Preston, J.L. & Edwards, M.L. (In press). Phonological processing skills of adolescents with residual speech sound errors. To appear in *Language, Speech & Hearing Services in Schools*, 38, 1-12.

Prieve, B. (2007). Otoacoustic emissions in neonatal hearing screening. In M. Robinette & T. Glatke (Eds.) *Otoacoustic Emissions: Clinical Applications* (3rd Edition). Thieme.

Shi, L.F., Doherty, K.A., & Zwislocki, J.J. (2007). Aided loudness growth and satisfaction with everyday loudness perception in compression hearing-aid users. *Journal of American Academy of Audiology*, 18, 206- 219.

Shi, L.F., Doherty, K.A., Kordas, T.M., & Pellegrino, J.T. (2007). Short- and long-term hearing-aid benefit and user satisfaction: A comparison between two fitting protocols. *Journal of American Academy of Audiology*, 18 (6), 482-495.

Smith, J.L., Sterns, A.R., Prieve, B.A. & Woods, C.I. (in press) Anesthetic effects on DPOAE levels, middle ear muscles and the medial olivocochlear reflex in rats. *Hearing Research*.

Vander Werff, K., Prieve, B., Georgantas, L., "Test-retest reliability of wideband reflectance measures in infants under screening and diagnostic test conditions". *Ear & Hearing*, 28, 669-681.

Alumni News

1971—Debby Lefkowitz Kerner (BS, MS Columbia 1973) lives in Houston, TX where she has had a private practice, Southwest Speech, since 1980. She is a past president of the Houston Association for Communication Disorders and she is running for the Board of Trustees for the Harris County Dept of Ed, which provides special ed services, hires SLPs, PTs and OTs for 27 districts.

1975—Linda Khan (MS) has returned to the U.S. after 15 years abroad. She and Peji have just arrived in Fort Lauderdale, FL.

1980—Susan Rezen, Ph.D. continues as an audiology faculty member at Worcester State College, but plans to retire in 2008 and move to Florida.

1981—Gerald Church, Ph.D. is a Professor & Audiology Division Director at Central Michigan University.

1987—Art Kenney is co-teaching our stuttering course and he also has a private practice specializing in stuttering. He is a proud grandfather to seven.

1988—Ann Tyler, Ph.D. (MS 1978) is a professor and the chair of the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology at Western Michigan University.

1993—John M. Torrens (MS) is President and Executive Director of InterActive Therapy Group. He has 150 employees with offices in Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, & Manhattan. In 2005, John earned his Ph.D. in Business Administration at North Central University.

--**Gita (Sachdeva) Kruger** (Speech MS 1990, Aud MS 1993) is practicing in Calgary, Canada. Her husband, Brian, also an SU alum, practices medicine and they have 3 children.

1994—Christine Wood (MS) is enrolled in the AuD transitional program at A.T. Still University/Arizona College of Health Sciences (online). She is now a pediatric audiologist/coordinator for the Utah Department of Health.

Cheryl (Wroblecki) Ruspantini (MS) has a private practice in Broome County, New York, working with EI and Preschool populations. She married John in 2000 and they have two daughters.

1995—Ranya (Awwad) Palmer (B.S. 93, M.S. 95) works per diem for Northeast Health at the Eddy Cohoes Rehabilitation Center in Niskayuna, NY, serving an adult population. She is married to Bill and has two sons.

--**Laura Polomeno** (MS) is an SLP working in schools and private practice with preschool and school-age populations. She lives in Montreal, is married, and has two daughters.

1997--Jennifer Wetter (MS) is the Director of Speech & Language at Release Communication Intervention in Dublin, Ireland. She is engaged to marry Robert Grundulis August 18, 2008 at SU's Hendricks Chapel.

--**Christine Doyle** (BS) is an instructor in the in-house clinic at the MGH-Institute of Health Professions, where she finished her graduate work. She will be presenting at ASHA this year.

1998—Katie (Walsh) Castano (MS) is contracting with Truro Public Schools in Cape Cod, MA., and seeing private clients. She is mom to two daughters, and enjoys the flexibility of her career.

Linda J. Louko Ph.D. is the Clinic Director/Associate Clinical Faculty at the Wendell Johnson Speech and Hearing Clinic at the University of Iowa.

Noelle (Troller) Laurita (MS) has a practice called Little Speakers LLC that contracts with two school districts in New Jersey. Her husband just returned from a 15 month tour in Iraq, and they have a 3 year old son.

Mark Pellowski (MS) who has his Ph.D. from Vanderbilt, has been promoted to Associate Professor and was also awarded tenure, at Towson University, MD.

2000—Bethany DiRobbio Jensen (BS) is working part time in Traumatic Brain Injury and Community Re-entry Rehabilitation and also works part time at Saratoga Hospital where she does acute patient care and videofluoroscopy. She had a baby girl on September 29, 2006.

Bridget Novey (BS) lives in Raleigh, NC. She is a Pediatric Audiologist at North Carolina Ear, Nose and Throat.

2001—Morgan Birtwell (BS) married John Bau in January 2007 and now has a baby boy.

Karen Nezelek, Ph.D. continues to study vocal fold behavior with Professor Emeritus Raymond Colton. She enjoys world travel with Dick Molitor, yoga, and singing in Schola Cantorum of Syracuse.

2002—Elissa Jacoby Polland (MS) is working at Long Beach Medical Center in Long Beach, NY. She married Evan Polland on September 2, 2007.

Jessica Heend Skemer (MS) is working with high school students in Great Neck, NY. She also sees elementary and middle school students and does some speech therapy for children in their home.

Karrie Klock (MS) is working at United Methodist Homes, Hilltop Campus, near Johnson City, NY.

Alumni News (continued)

2003—Sheri Collier (MS) is an SLP at Meachem Elementary in the Syracuse City School District.

Norah Wade (MS) is working at C-NS High School in the North Syracuse School District and also for Interactive Therapy Group doing EI and PreK services.

2004—Erica Schoenberg Gallagher (MS) earned her Au.D. degree from the University of Florida in 2006. She moved home to Clark's Summit, PA, where she has opened her own practice, Abington Audiology and Balance Center. She specializes in balance evaluations, vestibular rehabilitation and hearing aids.

Tiffany DiMatteo (MS) is working in EI at Children First, contemplating a move to a school district. She just bought a home.

Karen (Anderson) Schieber (MS) is an SLP at Aspire of WNY, specializing in EI and Preschool populations. She was married in August 2007.

Amanda (Davis) Picioli (MS) graduated from Univ. of Florida with her Au.D. in 2006. She is an audiologist at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf at Rochester Institute of Technology. She married Joseph Picioli May 26, 2007.

2005—Christie Francis (MS) is employed at Children's Rehabilitation Centre-Algoma, Canada. She works with age 3-19 with multiple needs like autism, CP, Downs and global delay. She & her boyfriend have 2 Schnoodle dogs.

Alizabeth (Estey) Evans (MS) is an SLP at Cape Cod Collaborative. She was married in August, 2006, and has a new baby girl.

Mackenzie Dumar-Sillick (MS) worked for two years at Care Resources in Baltimore, and is now working with infants and toddlers at Visiting Nurse Assoc. in Colchester, VT. She was married after graduation in 2005.

Vickie Montalvo (MS) is a district-wide SLP in Norwich City Schools. She worked for 2 years with grades 7-12, and now is at grades 4-6. She also contracts with the county for home visits. Her son was born December 29, 2006.

2006—Amy Langston (MS) is working for Frederick County Schools in Virginia. They are living on a 100+ acre horse farm where her husband is training horses. Her two children await a new sibling in May 2008.

Julie Wallach Caplan (MS) stayed on at Kennedy Krieger School in Baltimore after her CFY. She married Steve Caplan, an SU Alum of the School of Management, on June 16, 2007.

Lu-Feng Shi, Ph.D. (audiology) is teaching at the Brooklyn Campus of Long Island University.

Mandy Breitenbach, our first Au.D. graduate, is a clinical audiologist at Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary in Boston, fitting hearing aids and mapping cochlear implants for all ages. She also goes in the OR for the intraoperative monitoring of both facial and hearing nerve cases. She is engaged to marry Matt Theisen in the Syracuse area in October 2008.

2007—Erin Sargent (MS) is working at Southwest Speech Services in Avondale, AZ. She is working with kids 18 months – 12 years. She is also going to work with an active duty military man who suffered TBI in the war. She and her husband look forward to buying a home and beginning the adoption process to have a baby next year.

Jenelle Spaulding (MS) stayed in the Syracuse area and is working at Connections with children in preschool and early intervention. She is engaged to be married October 4, 2008.

Stefanie Hayes (MS) is working at Banner Baywood Medical Center in Mesa, AZ in John J. Rhodes Rehabilitation Institute. She is engaged to be married June 21, 2008 in Syracuse.

Erin (Houghton) Barger (MS) has a job offer pending and got married July 28, 2007 to Scot. They live in West Virginia.

Several alumni have expressed an interest in sharing email contact information with old friends. We are currently looking into electronic options to do this. Don't forget you can find contact information for ASHA members at the ASHA website!

Lauren Calandruccio, Ph.D.

Lauren earned her Ph.D. in Audiology in May, 2007. She successfully defended her dissertation titled "Spectral weighting strategies for sentences measured by a correlational method." Lauren has accepted a post-doctoral research associate position with Northwestern University where she will work with Dr. Sumitrajit Dhar and Dr. Patrick Wong beginning in December. She and Eric also welcomed baby boy Kieran Ripley into the world on September 12! Congratulations!

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hl.syr.edu/depts/csd/](http://www-hl.syr.edu/depts/csd/)

You can submit information
about yourself at this site. We
would love to hear from you.

2006 Scholarship Winners

Awards presented at the annual holiday party in December 2006



Amy Sled, M.S., 2007

Maureen Higgins
Memorial Scholarship

Amy Diehl
Au.D.

Louis DiCarlo Scholarship



Kate Low, M.S. 2007

Scime-Tubolino
Memorial Scholarship

Kristen Burns, BS 2007 was
awarded the
undergraduate Louis M.
DiCarlo Scholarship at the
2007 graduation
ceremony. She entered our
AuD program this fall.